

# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Supplement to  
**THE WORLD TODAY**

PERIODICAL ROOM  
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UNIV. OF MICH

Published twice a month by the Royal Institute of International  
Affairs, Chatham House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1

Annual subscription 12s. 6d. Per copy 6d.

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**ALBANIA.** *March 7.*—The National Assembly adopted the new Constitution, establishing a People's Republic.

**ARGENTINA.** *March 9.*—A British shipbuilding mission arrived in Buenos Ayres.

*March 11.*—The trade agreement with Great Britain which was due to expire on Feb. 21, 1946 was extended for a further 6 months in the form of a gentlemen's agreement.

*March 15.*—Election results to date showed that Col. Peron's election as President was certain.

*March 21.*—The Foreign Minister denied reports that Argentina had refused to co-operate to solve the European food problem, and described as ridiculous allegations that they had shipped wheat preferentially to Spain and Portugal.

**AUSTRALIA.** *March 13.*—Dr. Evatt stated in Parliament that the Government would not be a party to any hasty arrangements for the reallocation of territory or the disposition of military bases in the Pacific, and they would enter into no commitments which would lessen control by the Australian people of their own territories. Any consideration of plans for the joint use of any bases in their dependent territory should be preceded by an over-all defence arrangement for the western Pacific, including the islands formerly mandated to Japan. As incident to any such arrangement Australia should be entitled to the reciprocal use of foreign bases in the region.

As to Russia, having no clear evidence to the contrary he took the view that Soviet policy was directed towards self-protection and security against future attacks.

*March 15.*—Dr. Evatt stated in Parliament that the Government was taking the initiative in urging the Allies to establish a Pacific Council to expedite peaceful settlements in the Pacific area.

*March 18.*—It was announced that, after provision for home needs

from the new wheat crop, there would be 55½ million bushels for export as flour.

**AUSTRIA.** *March 11.*—The Allied Control Council decided to reduce the rations to 1,200 calories, with 1,300 for children, 1,850 for workers, and 2,700 for heavy workers.

*March 16.*—Soviet troops began taking over estates and farms in the Soviet zone.

*March 18.*—Over 100,000 acres were occupied by the Russians, who said they were doing it to ensure that they were cultivated and so produced food for their troops.

*March 20.*—Karl Seitz, the Social Democratic leader, declared in Parliament that it was time the clause at the head of Government papers was removed that stated that no law might be passed before the Control Commission had approved it. Was it really a democracy, he asked, that must ask for power from outside the State before it could pass any law? "We appeal", he added, "to the honour of the British, French, Russian, and especially the American peoples."

*March 21.*—The Chancellor, in a statement for the British press, said the Government had set up a Ministerial committee to rid the country of Nazis, and it had begun by examining the history of all leading persons in State offices and the national economy. So far about 2,000 of these people had been removed. They were determined, he said, to punish thoroughly and justly those who had turned against Austria.

**BELGIUM.** *March 11.*—M. Spaak formed a Cabinet, taking the Foreign Ministry himself. Other Ministers were: Finance, M. de Voghel; Justice, M. Rollin; the Interior, M. Merlot; Labour, M. Van Acker; War Damage, M. Vermeylen; Education, M. Collard; the Colonies, M. Craeybeeckx; Foreign Trade, M. Smaele; and Food, M. de Fernig.

*March 12.*—M. Wauters was appointed Minister of Agriculture, and M. Van Beneden, Public Health. Ten of the Cabinet were Socialists.

The bread ration was reduced by 1¼ oz. for ordinary consumers.

*March 15.*—Col. Defraiteur was appointed Minister of Defence, and M. Troclet, Minister of Economic Affairs.

*March 20.*—On a motion of confidence in the Chamber the Government secured 90 votes, with 90 against, and 15 abstentions. The Socialists and Communists voted for, and the Christian-Socials against the Government. The Liberals abstained.

*March 21.*—The Government resigned, and the Regent asked M. De Schrijver, the Catholic leader, to investigate the situation.

**BULGARIA.** *March 8.*—Moscow statement *re* U.S. Note to Bulgaria. (see U.S.S.R.) The British representative in Sofia told the Government that Britain associated herself with the U.S. view about the broadening of the Government.

*March 21.*—The Government resigned, and the Premier offered to form a new one.

*March 22.*—Col. Georgiev was asked by the Regents to form a new Government, according to the Moscow radio.

CANADA. *March 4.*—The Prime Minister issued an interim report received from the Royal Commission. It said the evidence so far had established that 4 persons had directly or indirectly communicated secret information to members of the Soviet Embassy staff who were working under direct instructions from Moscow; also that a network of undercover agents had been organized and developed for the purpose of obtaining secret information, particularly from employees of Departments and agencies of the Government and from employees in the British High Commissioner's office.

The information the Soviet agents sought covered a great range of subjects, listed under 24 heads, including "measures to obtain particulars as to the materials of which the atomic bomb is composed; its technological process, and drawings". Col. Zabin, military attaché at the Embassy, was in charge of espionage operations, and was assisted by Col. Motinov, chief assistant military attaché, and Col. Rogov, attaché for air. Major Sokolov, Lieut. Angelov, and other members of the Soviet military staff were involved.

*March 7.*—The financial discussions in Ottawa with British experts ended with the conclusion of an agreement under which Canada would provide Britain with a credit of \$1,250 million, to carry interest at 2 per cent from Jan. 1, 1951, and be repayable over 50 years beginning at the end of 1951. It also provided that the interest-free loan granted in 1942 would be continued on the same basis as hitherto till January, 1951. Before that date the two Governments would discuss how they were to treat the service and repayment of the loan then outstanding. Another provision involved the cancellation of the indebtedness of Britain in respect of the Commonwealth air training plan, i.e., \$425 million. The two Governments agreed to accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to exchange controls and import restrictions.

A supplementary agreement arranged for the settlement of all remaining claims which each Government had against the other arising out of the war, and under this Britain would pay Canada \$150 million and cancel all claims on Canada outstanding as at Feb. 28, in return for which Canada would cancel all outstanding claims not otherwise dealt with.

*March 8.*—The head of the British financial mission stated in Montreal that the loan would be drastically revised if the loan from the U.S.A. fell through.

*March 14.*—A Communist M.P. named Rose was arrested on a charge of conspiring to transmit secret information to Russian agents.

*March 15.*—The Royal Commission submitted a second report to the Prime Minister naming 4 more persons as engaged in espionage.

*March 16.*—The Earl of Athlone left Ottawa for Washington on retirement from office.

*March 17.*—The Prime Minister announced new proposals for increasing the production of food, and for speeding up the transport of wheat to the shipping ports.

*March 18.*—The Prime Minister stated in Parliament that the espionage by the Russians constituted "the most serious situation that has arisen at any time in Canada". It was necessary for the Government "to take into consideration the interests of all nations in the repercussions that would ensue". What was being created was a fifth column, and he felt it his duty to inform Britain and the U.S.A.

CHINA. *March 5.*—The Foreign Minister told the Kuomintang executive committee that China was dissatisfied with U.N.O. The present grave situation throughout the world was due to lack of harmony, the veto system, and the atomic discoveries. Russian withdrawal from Manchuria could not be made contingent on Chinese acquiescence in the Russian demand for concessions.

The Foreign Office was understood to have informed the U.S. Government, in reply to the Note of Feb. 9 (*see U.S.A.*) that Moscow had sent China a memorandum on Jan. 21 declaring that all Japanese enterprises in Manchuria which had served the Japanese were regarded by Russia as "war-booty of the Soviet forces".

*March 7.*—Reports from Changsha described conditions in the rice bowl area of Hunan as tragic, with a million people starving owing to failure of the crops.

The Foreign Minister, addressing the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang, said China took her stand on 2 points: that all Japanese property on Chinese soil should go to her as reparations, and that she could not agree to Russia retaining the "war-booty" in Manchuria in return for withdrawing her troops, since Russia had unconditionally promised to withdraw them all by Feb. 1.

*March 8.*—Twenty-two trainloads of Soviet troops were reported to have left Mukden for Tiehling, 40 miles to the north. Chinese officials stated that they had first "picked clean" the Mukden industrial area, and that fires were burning in the city.

*March 11.*—The Russians declared martial law for 24 hours at Harbin and searched civilians for arms. A large body of Communist troops arrived at Alling, 10 miles away, to occupy Harbin if the Russians withdrew. Communist activity was reported to be increasing in Jehol.

*March 12.*—Communist forces were reported to have captured the suburbs of Chienchang, in Jehol, moving east towards Manchuria.

The last detachments of Soviet troops left Mukden.

*March 15.*—It was learnt in Chungking that an agreement had been reached with the native peoples (Kazaks) in Sinkiang granting them an autonomous status, with power to elect local administrators, freedom of religion, language, culture and arts, publication, assembly, and expression, and other rights.



*March 16.*—Gen. Marshall's statement on the situation in Manchuria. (see U.S.A.)

*March 17.*—Over 100 Chinese officials arrived in Mukden to establish the garrison H.Q.

*March 18.*—Gen. Liu Fei, Vice-Minister of Military Operations, reported to the Central Executive Committee of the Government that the Government had so far taken over only 3 per cent of Manchuria. Mukden was now occupied, but was surrounded by Communist forces, who numbered some 300,000 in the three provinces.

*March 24.*—Fighting with Communist forces was reported at Szepingkai, 90 miles north-east of Mukden. Government troops entered Fushun, Liaoyang, and Tiehling. Date for withdrawal of Soviet forces. (see U.S.S.R.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. *March 20.*—Marshal Tito arrived in Prague, preceded by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister and Gen. Velebit. Security police took unusual precautions when they arrived.

*March 23.*—On leaving Prague Marshal Tito told the press that he was responsible for the bilateral treaties with Poland and Czechoslovakia (the latter being negotiated) as he did not believe in *blocs*; they were always against somebody. As for his neighbours, relations with Greece were "bearable", his sympathies being with the Greek people, and he would like to extend a hand to Hungary, but unfortunately there were still individuals there who has irredendist tendencies.

If the Trieste and boundary line award was unsatisfactory he would raise the issue at the peace conference.

DENMARK. *March 16.*—The Foreign Office announced that the Russians had begun to withdraw from Bornholm.

EGYPT. *March 4.*—Riots in Alexandria on the "day of mourning" resulted in 17 deaths, including 2 British soldiers, and injuries to 299 people. Two serious attacks were made by the mob, who overran a British military police outpost and stoned two men to death. Only 5 men were in the post and they had to fire in self-defence. A Government spokesman in Cairo stated that British soldiers fired on the crowd. The Prime Minister issued a *communiqué* stating that the police were obliged to use their firearms, loaded with buckshot, when a crowd tried to tear down the flag from the Atlantic Hotel (a British services hostel). Several other premises were attacked. The police, supported by Egyptian troops, saved the lives of the remaining 3 British soldiers.

The Minister for Social Affairs stated that the British authorities had given the Government a time limit to restore order; otherwise British troops would take over the city. The Egyptian Army had, however, done this without British aid.

*March 5.*—Rioting continued in Alexandria, and 50 people were injured. When the Premier visited the scene of the previous day's destruction a seething mob surrounded his car shouting "we want evacuation". He was forced to retire in an Egyptian army car. Later,

he received deputations of students, workmen, and university professors, and told them he was unable to understand the demonstrations as his aims were the same as theirs.

The Director of the Foreign Office of Iraq, giving evidence before the Anglo-American Commission, said Zionism was "a political creed and reactionary movement which has much in common with Hitlerism".

*March 6.*—At Port Said a boy was killed by a lorry driven by an African soldier, and a crowd burned the lorry and attacked the driver, later destroying property in the European quarter.

*March 7.*—The Premier announced that he was forming a delegation for the treaty revision talks without the Wafd, which refused to join unless they were given a majority in the delegation and Nahas Pasha headed it.

*March 8.*—The delegation was composed of 8 non-party members (including Sidky Pasha, Lutfi el Sayed Pasha, and several former Premiers), 2 Siadists, 1 of the Kotla (Independent Wafdist) Party, and 1 Liberal Constitutionalist.

*March 9.*—The police closed the offices of 3 Wafdist papers in Cairo. Four British service men and 2 A.T.S. were injured when a hand grenade exploded in a Cairo cinema.

*March 11.*—The leader and 4 members of the Young Egypt party were arrested for intimidating shopkeepers.

*March 14.*—The Wafd issued a manifesto declaring it would not be bound by the results of the treaty negotiations.

*March 20.*—Sir Ronald Campbell arrived in Cairo.

**EIRE.** *March 4.*—A conference on North Atlantic air route services was opened in Dublin. Eighteen nations were represented.

**FINLAND.** *March 4.*—F.-M. Mannerheim resigned the Presidency owing to ill-health.

*March 9.*—Parliament elected M. Paasikivi President of the Republic by 159 votes out of 184 cast.

**FRANCE.** *March 4.*—The Foreign Minister received the British Government's reply to the Note on relations with Spain. Official figures published showed that of 101 persons condemned to death in Paris for collaborationist crimes 39 had been executed, 15 of them Gestapo agents and 7 of them journalists.

It was learnt that the Government had proposed to Britain and the U.S.A. that the Spanish situation should be submitted to the U.N. Security Council.

*March 6.*—Conclusion of agreement with the Tongking Viet-Nam administration. (*see Indo-China.*)

*March 8.*—M. Bidault received a Soviet Note accepting the proposal that the Spanish question be submitted to U.N.O. Report *re* American attitude. (*see U.S.A.*) The Cabinet approved the agreement with the Viet-Nam Government.

*March 9.*—Serious disagreement as to the provisions of the Con-

stitution was reported between M.R.P. and the left parties. The former wanted far greater powers for the President of the Republic than the others would accept, and an Upper House closely resembling the Senate.

*March 10.*—Agreement was reached with the British representatives for the evacuation of Syria, to be completed by April 30, and of the Lebanon by June 30 by the British, and April 1, 1947 by the French. (There were 9,500 British and 8,000 French troops to evacuate from the Lebanon.)

It was learnt that the Soviet Government had accepted a request by the Government for about 500,000 tons of grain, to be supplied from Black Sea ports immediately.

*March 11.*—U.S. reply to Note of Feb. 27 regarding Franco's régime. (see U.S.A.)

*March 12.*—M. Bidault handed to the British and U.S. Ambassadors a Note in reply to their refusal to associate with France in bringing the Spanish question before U.N.O. It pointed out that London and Washington, by joining in the three-Power declaration 10 days earlier had already shown that it was not simply a Spanish affair, but had effects on international relations. The U.S. disclosures of Franco's dealings with Hitler had shown that the régime was an Axis satellite in the sense of the Yalta Declaration on Allied aims.

*March 14.*—The Assembly voted unanimously the promotion of the colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion, and French Guiana to the status of Departments of the mother country.

*March 16.*—At the inaugural meeting of the Planning Council the Prime Minister said French reconstruction was intimately bound up with the import of Ruhr coal, and they needed another million tons a month from there.

*March 18.*—M. Bidault received the British Ambassador, who handed him the British reply to the second French Note about Spain. The reply stated that interference in a State's internal affairs was a dangerous precedent for the U.N.O. to establish, and if it were sanctioned once there might easily be pressure from members for interference in the affairs of other States.

Five Vichy Ministers were sentenced, 2 of them to death, and 2 to long terms of imprisonment. Jean Ybarnegaray was sentenced to national degradation, but the sentence was erased because of his services to the resistance movement.

*March 19.*—Mr. Hoover arrived in Paris.

*March 22.*—A new agreement with the Lebanon was signed providing for the withdrawal of all French troops in August, though a mission of 30 officers and 200 men would remain behind to supervise the removal of material.

GERMANY. *March 6.*—The Zonal Advisory Council for the British zone held its first meeting, at Hamburg. It consisted of 27 Germans nominated by the British Control Commission. F.-M. Montgomery's Chief of Staff told the meeting that it was no part of British policy to

allow the German people to starve; the reduction of the ration had been forced upon them by the gravity of the world food situation. The major part of the imports of food and other commodities to the British zone was being paid for by the British taxpayer. That burden would not be accepted indefinitely, and it was essential to reduce the dependence of the zone on outside help.

He also said it was no part of British policy to perpetuate the zonal form of administration, and when the time came for the centralization of the government they foresaw that, for the most part, these zonal administrations would merge into a central authority.

Russian troops occupied the head offices of the largest private banks, all in the Russian sector of Berlin, and arrested 3 directors. They then closed and sealed the offices.

*March 7.*—Twelve Berlin members of the Communist Party were arrested in the U.S. zone on charges of attempting to undermine the Allied Military Government and using threats to its employees. Thirty-three bankers were also arrested.

*March 8.*—It was announced that the report of the Tripartite Merchant Marine Commission had been approved, making provision for dividing some 1,189,600 gross tons of German sea-going shipping between Britain, America, and Russia in shares based on a valuation at 1938 building prices. The vessels were now being transferred.

*March 10.*—It was announced that a German Economic Advisory Board, composed of a secretariat and a Council, had been set up in the British zone. It would advise and recommend to the British authorities on the economic problems of the zone, and its members were chosen from a variety of regions, classes, and political groups.

A U.S. A.A. Battalion commander issued a strongly worded order warning his troops against criticizing the Soviet Union to Germans.

*March 11.*—The Economic Advisory Council passed a resolution calling for greater production of food and more co-operation from the farmer and the agricultural population generally.

*March 15.*—Gen. Zeitzler, a former Chief of the General Staff, was arrested in the British zone. The suicide was confirmed of F.-M. Model.

*March 17.*—The normal ration in the French zone was reduced to 915 calories, and it was stated that, without imports, there would be no bread in the zone after the end of May.

Several local branches in the British sector in Berlin of the Social Democratic Party passed resolutions against fusion with the Communist Party.

*March 20.*—Raids were made on bakeries in Hamburg, and the police dispersed crowds attacking a food train.

*March 21.*—The purchase of foodstuffs of any kind by British troops was forbidden in Berlin and throughout the British zone. The Soviet Military Government issued orders reducing the amounts of meat, milk, and eggs required of farmers in the Russian zone.

Disorders continued in Hamburg, and some food supplies were stolen. The police raided illicit trading centres and arrested 42 people.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** *March 4.*—The Foreign Office announced that the French and British military delegations had agreed on a plan for simultaneous withdrawal of their forces from Syria, starting on March 11 and to be completed by April 30. They were working on plans for the evacuation of the Lebanon.

The Foreign Office issued a statement on Spain by the Governments of France, Britain, and the U.S.A. It said that they had exchanged views regarding Franco's Government and agreed that so long as he continued in control "the Spanish people cannot anticipate full and cordial association with those nations of the world which have, by common effort, brought defeat to German Nazism and Italian Fascism which aided the present Spanish régime in its rise to power and after which the regime was patterned".

There was no intention of interfering in internal affairs; the Spanish people themselves must in the long run work out their own destiny. The three Governments were hopeful that they would not again be subjected to the horrors and bitterness of civil strife. On the contrary, it was hoped that leading patriotic and liberal-minded Spaniards might soon find the means to bring about a peaceful withdrawal of Franco, the abolition of the Falange, and the establishment of an interim or caretaker Government under which the Spanish people might have an opportunity of freedom to determine the type of government they wished to have and to choose their leaders.

In Parliament the Minister of State, replying to questions, said that the Spanish Foreign Ministry had informed the British Ambassador that the 10 Communists executed had been convicted on criminal charges of murder, assault, and robbery. The 37 Socialists were charged with the offence of reorganizing the Socialist Party. The Ambassador was at once instructed to tell the Spanish Foreign Ministry that the executions had roused deep resentment in Britain, and to invite it to furnish the evidence on which they were convicted; also to say that the punishment of the 37 Socialists was utterly repugnant to British opinion. He was instructed to press the Spanish Government to reconsider the whole matter.

Mr. Noel Baker also stated that when the Anglo-American Palestine Commission was refused permission to enter Hungary and Rumania the Government had discussed the matter with the Soviet Government and endeavoured to secure permission, but were not successful.

*March 5.*—The Minister of Food left for the U.S.A.

Mr. Noel Baker told the House of Commons that 2 British soldiers had been killed the previous day in Alexandria. The troops involved were beleaguered and attacked, and it was only after that that they were obliged to fire.

*March 6.*—A White Paper was issued setting out the post-war code of pay, allowances, retired pay, and gratuities for officers of the armed forces. Cmd. 6750.

*March 7.*—Conclusion of financial agreement with Canada. (see *Canada*.)

*March 8.*—The Government gave an assurance in Parliament that

the Orders in Council giving effect to the new Constitution of Malaya would not be issued until consultations on the subject of citizenship and the setting up of Executive Councils had taken place.

Mr. Bevin sent a reply to the Greek Note of March 2, in which he said that the abstention of the Left-wing elements from the Elections could only imply their belief that they did not enjoy popular support. Until the Elections were held there could be no possibility of knowing what the real sentiments of the people were. He was much surprised by M. Sophoulis's statement that armed "X" organizations would be reinforced by almost the whole of the police and gendarmerie. Such a statement was not borne out by reports he had received, and he felt sure that the Greek authorities, with the help of the British police mission, could see that no such co-operation between the police and gendarmerie and the "X" bands took place. If Greece was to win the respect of her allies it was essential for the Government to show determination to deal with this matter effectively.

*March 9.*—The Government transmitted to the Soviet Government a Note protesting against the removal of Japanese industrial plant from Manchuria.

*March 11.*—The Foreign Under-Secretary stated in Parliament that he understood that a considerable increase in the number of Yugoslav troops in the Yugoslav zone of Venezia Giulia took place in the first half of February. The Ambassador in Belgrade was instructed to ask Marshal Tito for an explanation, and was told that the movements were of a routine character, necessitated by the demobilization of men in units stationed in the area. Mr. McNeil emphasized that the settlement of the frontier problem would be reached by the Allies after the recommendations of the experts had been examined, and that local troop movements would not affect the principle on which the decision would be made.

On a vote of £10 million for a credit to Greece, to stabilize the currency, Mr. McNeil said it was part of the economic and financial agreement signed with Greece on Jan. 24. The economic mission was now established in Athens. New wage rates had been fixed in order to take account of the devaluation of the drachma, and prices had remained fairly stable since the agreement was signed. He pointed out, however, that reconstruction in Greece could take place only when there was a Government with sufficient authority to push through some highly unpalatable legislation. No Government without an electoral mandate could do that.

It was apparently not true that M. Tsouderos or M. Peltekis had resigned, and it was certainly not true that the Populists alone proposed to take part in the Elections if held on March 31. Mr. Bevin had advised the Greek Government that they should proceed to election because there was a joint supervising mission on hand, because the work of reconstruction was meantime being partially held up, because all the main parties agreed upon that date last November, and because it was highly desirable that as soon as possible Greece should have an elected and stable Government.



Replying to a question, he said the supervisory commission had sent to London "no contrary advice" on the question of the practicability of holding elections now. The loan was approved.

*March 12.*—The Under-Secretary for Air, introducing the Estimates in Parliament, said that strategic bombing had justified itself, as had been shown by captured enemy documents. He declared that Britain led the world in the development in new methods of propulsion, including the gas turbine harnessed to propellers or issuing direct in a jet. He urged that they must on no account economize on research; if they did, they would be swiftly overtaken. As regards demobilization he said it would continue at a pace which would reduce the strength of the R.A.F. to some 305,000 men and women by Dec. 31. The Estimates totalling £255,500,000, were adopted.

A monetary agreement was signed with Switzerland, fixing the rate of exchange at 17.35 francs to the £1, and providing, *inter alia*, for the lifting of the ban on travel to Switzerland on April 1.

*March 14.*—Mr. Bevin announced in Parliament that a Note had been sent to Moscow asking Russia's intentions about the withdrawal of her troops from Persia, and stated that no decision to replace British troops there had been taken by the Government, or to open negotiations with the Persian Government for their return.

He recalled the various occasions on which the Soviet Government, Marshal Stalin, and M. Molotov had given explicit assurances that the integrity of Persia would be respected, including the Government's statement of November, 1945, and M. Molotov's declaration during the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers. He said it was difficult to understand the present policy of Russia, and more difficult to believe that all these assurances were not going to be fulfilled. When the Government became a party to the resolution of the Security Council on Jan. 30 they did so on the clear assumption that the existing treaty obligation to withdraw Allied troops by March 2 would be fulfilled.

Mr. Noel Baker left for the U.S.A. to attend the Council of U.N.R.R.A.

*March 15.*—Mr. Bevin received Gen. Anders and the Polish Commanders in the Middle East, Germany, and Scotland.

Mr. Attlee, explaining in Parliament their aim in sending the Cabinet Mission to India, said it was for the Indians themselves to decide their future form of government. He hoped India would remain in the Commonwealth, but it was a matter for her decision. The difficulties arising from the complexity of races, religions, and languages must be overcome by the Indians themselves. In the negotiations the minority must not be allowed to place a veto on the advance of the majority.

*March 16.*—Mr. Bevin, speaking at Port Talbot, said it took a long time to set up a world organization, one, too, which would have, virtually, to take over from the League of Nations the basis of the new world State — "what you have got to get right is the political head of the State, who must be responsible for its direction". After declaring that there were no two greater friends in the world than M. Vishinsky and

himself, he said the three different philosophies of Britain, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R. would adjust themselves in time if the nations were patient and not dogmatic about them. He then emphasized that the Government were not in any way party to Mr. Churchill's speech, and reiterated his willingness to advocate the extension of the alliance with Russia.

He believed that every time war had broken out, if it had been left to the free vote of the people it would not have happened. He would do nothing that even savoured of aggression, and "I make an appeal to other countries, whatever their historical reasons, to eschew aggression either by propaganda, or wars of nerves, or by action which keeps other countries on the jump".

*March 18.*—The Colonial Under-Secretary announced in Parliament that, in their plans for Malaya, the Government could not abandon the basic principle of common citizenship, i.e., the principle that demanded that political rights in the Union should be extended to all who regarded Malaya as their real home and the object of their loyalty. In view of misunderstandings in Malaya, however, steps would be taken, before the Order-in-Council was issued, to explain the proposals throughout the country and to consult the views of all interested communities. He enumerated the modifications already decided upon, such as that the Council of Sultans might discuss secular matters without the prior consent of the Governor, and the Sultan's Advisory Councils to be set up would be empowered to advise the Sultans not only on matters of religion but on other matters in which they might ask their advice.

*March 19.*—The three Ministers forming the mission to India left England.

*March 20.*—The Foreign Office, in a statement on the Greek Elections, said the Government were still in favour of the earliest possible date, and recalled Mr. Bevin's speech at the Labour Party conference on Dec. 13, 1944, the Varkiza Agreement of Feb. 12, 1945, and the joint statement by the British, French, and U.S. Governments when the Regent visited London in September. The undertakings and understandings between the British and Greek Governments had been perfectly clear, and accordingly all arrangements had been made by the Allied Mission of Observers for the Elections to be held on March 31. The refusal of certain parties to take part did not, and could not, invalidate the agreement entered into between the two Governments.

The Government did not take the view that the state of security in Greece would improve if the Elections were postponed for 2 months. The state of uncertainty would continue, and reconstruction be hampered. All the progress in instituting methods for reconstruction was held up by the uncertainty, and the British Government would not be doing their duty if now, owing to pressure, some of it from outside and some from within, they went back on their undertakings.

They were informed that in most districts the electoral lists were very good; in other places where there had been complaints they had been examined, and the whole thing was being overhauled by the observers,

who numbered nearly 1,000, in 240 separate teams, scattered all through Greece.

It was regretted that Russia, though invited, had declined to provide observers. The British Government said to the Right and the Left that any interference with the elections by anybody would be an injury to Greece, and the responsibility would be on their heads.

Mr. Bevin, in a statement in Parliament on the Polish forces under British command, said agreement had been reached with Warsaw on the conditions that would apply to the transfer of the men to Poland. Every man would receive that day a document in Polish, with a message from him, explaining that the British Government considered the information set out in the document as satisfactory, and a promise was given that the Government would afford assistance to those who did not wish to return to Poland. The Polish document set out the conditions to apply to all troops returning, who would as far as possible be dealt with by categories, rather than by individual scrutiny by their Consuls, as at first stated by Warsaw.

He had discussed the problem fully with Gen. Anders, to whom he had made it clear that Britain could not preserve these personnel as armed forces under British command. He paid a tribute to the fine services of these troops, in whom, he said, they could not disinterest themselves, and he told the House that the treatment of those who returned to Poland would determine to a large extent Anglo-Polish relations. He also said that Britain, as one of the signatories of the Yalta declaration on Poland, and in view of the further undertakings she received at Potsdam, could not disinterest herself in developments in Poland.

*March 21.*—The Foreign Office announced the signature of an agreement with Greece providing for the restoration of property and money, hitherto controlled under wartime regulations, belonging to residents in the two countries.

**GREECE.** *March 4.*—The principal Left parties announced their intention to boycott the Elections, but said they would take part on certain conditions, if polling was postponed for 6 months.

*March 5.*—The Minister of Information's resignation was announced owing to his broadcast the previous evening in which he said that a last effort must be made to avoid one-sided Elections.

*March 6.*—M. Tsouderos, the Deputy Premier, resigned, explaining in a letter to M. Sophoulis that he believed the election ought to be postponed. Abstention of the Left would create conditions far from normal, and Greece needed at least 6 months' continuous effort for her rehabilitation. He had therefore decided not to take part. The Minister of Marine declared that Greece would be heading for another civil war if elections were held with the Left abstaining.

*March 7.*—It was learnt that M. Sophoulis had on March 2 sent a message to the British Government strongly emphasizing the difficulties in holding the Elections on March 31.

*March 8.*—British reply to the Premier's Note. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 9.*—Five Ministers resigned—those of Education, Air, Public Works, and Post and Telegraphs, and the Deputy Premier, and the last-named stated that he and his party, the Progressive Republicans, would boycott the Elections if they were held on March 31. He complained that British policy had chosen, by using the pretext of non-intervention in Greek affairs, to ignore what was happening and to leave the country in the full control of the Right.

*March 10.*—Three more Ministers asked the Premier for a special meeting of the Cabinet to discuss the Elections, which, they said, could not be impartial in existing conditions. The Minister of Finance (leader of the Agrarians) also said the Election should be postponed.

*March 11.*—Two more Ministers resigned. M. Sophoulis announced that the portfolios recently abandoned would be filled by transfer to other Ministers or to service under-secretaries by Government decree.

E.A.M. issued a statement declaring that the Left-wing boycott of the Elections would include demonstrations throughout the country.

Mr. McNeil's statement, and approval of the loan to Greece. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 12.*—Gen. Scobie left for London on relinquishing his command.

*March 17.*—The Prime Minister, speaking at Salonika, said he must admit that the necessary prerequisites for free elections—law and order—did not exist in Greece, and “all over the country monarchist candidates alone are able to move about freely”. The election results would not reflect freely expressed convictions; “Communism or Monarchy—that is the tragic dilemma with which Greek political life is faced to-day. Both paths lead to the same end—catastrophe”.

*March 20.*—Sir Clifford Norton presented his credentials as British Ambassador to the Regent. British Government's statement regarding the Elections. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 21.*—Signature of agreement with Great Britain. (*see Great Britain.*)

**HUNGARY.** *March 12.*—Szalasi and 3 other Nazi leaders were hanged in Budapest.

*March 20.*—A deputy Premier, a Foreign Minister, and a member of the Regency Council during Szalasi's régime were hanged. Their appeal for clemency had been rejected by the President of the Republic.

*March 21.*—Nineteen M.P.s who were expelled from the Small-holders' Party as “reactionaries” the previous week under the bargain with the Communists formed a new party called the Szabadiag (Liberty) Party to oppose the Government.

**INDIA.** *March 6.*—In the Punjab a coalition Ministry was formed of Unionists, Congress, and the Akali Sikhs. Since the election 4 Muslims were stated to have left the Unionist ranks and joined the Muslim League. The Sikhs accepted a place in the coalition only after obtaining an assurance from the Congress president that the Congress would not

agree to any final solution of the Indian problem without consulting them.

*March 7.*—The police had to fire 3 times in Delhi on rioters who set fire to the Town Hall and other buildings in protest against the Victory Week celebrations. A curfew was imposed from 9 p.m.

*March 8.*—The damage in Delhi was estimated at Rs. 10 lakhs, and 3 people were killed.

*March 11.*—Mr. Gandhi, speaking in Bombay, said that, as a brave people, it would be their duty to take at its face value the recent declaration of the British Ministers that they intended to restore to India what was her due.

*March 12.*—Election rioting in Cawnpore led to 4 people being killed when the police had to fire. A Sikh temple and a mosque were set on fire.

The Government gave South Africa notice of the termination of its commercial agreement, in reprisal for the rejection by Gen. Smuts of its proposals regarding the South African legislation affecting Indians. The Commonwealth Relations Secretary declared in the Central Assembly that they could not acquiesce in this legislation, as it would relegate the Indians to a position of permanent inferiority.

*March 15.*—The Viceroy was understood to have proposed the formation of a food control committee composed of Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Jinnah, the Nawab of Bhopal, and himself, but the Congress executive contended that it was impossible to fight the food crisis without a popular Government at the centre.

*March 18.*—The Bihar elections resulted in Congress winning 98 seats out of 152, and the Muslim League 34 out of 40 Muslim seats. In Orissa Congress won a clear majority without an electoral contest. In the United Provinces Congress won 143 seats out of 235 and the Muslim League 54 out of 66 Muslim seats. Congress was thus able to set up single-party Governments in all 3 Provinces.

*March 21.*—Mr. Jinnah told a Muslim League meeting at Lahore that they must "let their sword arms play" to achieve Pakistan. "Even if the British and the Hindus made an Anglo-Hindu alliance we are prepared", he said.

*March 22.*—Mr. Jinnah, in a Pakistan Day message, called on Muslims to organize for a struggle to achieve Pakistan at any cost. He said Mr. Attlee's dictum that a minority could not veto the advance of the majority was "a vicious formula".

*March 23.*—The British Cabinet Mission arrived at Karachi.

At a Pakistan Day rally in Delhi Mr. Jinnah's chief lieutenant declared that Muslims were no longer talking in terms of a constitutional fight.

*March 24.*—The Cabinet Mission arrived in Delhi, and were joined by the Viceroy, as fourth member.

**INDO-CHINA.** *March 4.*—S.E.A.C.'s authority in the country ended, and from March 5 control south of the 16th parallel passed to the French.

*March 6.*—The French cruiser *Emile Bertin* was fired on by coastal guns off Haiphong while she was waiting for permission from the Chinese to land a French force. 18 men were killed. She and 4 other warships then exchanged fire with the shore.

The French High Commissariat signed an agreement with the leader of the Viet Minh organization, Ho Chi-minh. Under this, the presence of French troops north of the 16th parallel was agreed to, and the total occupying Tongking was fixed at 15,000 French and 10,000 Viet-Nam troops. (This made it unnecessary for Gen. Leclerc to enter Tongking by force). The Viet-Nam Republic was recognized as a free State forming part of the Indo-Chinese Federation. The populations of the 3 provinces were to be asked later to declare their wishes in respect of the union of the 3 parts (Tongking, Annam, and Cochinchina).

(The Viet-Minh was the Annamese independence movement. The Republic of Viet-Nam comprised Tongking and Annam.)

The food situation in Tongking was reported to be desperate, one estimate of the people who had died of starvation in the delta during the winter being 700,000.

*March 16.*—Some 1,200 of the Chinese troops in Tongking left Haiphong.

*March 18.*—French troops entered Hanoi.

ITALY. *March 5.*—Rioting by unemployed at Andria, in South Italy, led to several deaths, including 2 carabinieri, whose barracks were surrounded.

*March 6.*—The riots continued, and the local committee of national liberation was stated to have demanded the surrender of the barracks.

*March 7.*—The Allied Commission of Investigation arrived at Trieste.

*March 10.*—Local elections in 436 communes in the centre and south of Italy were held, for the first time since 1920. At Servola, a Slovene village on the outskirts of Trieste, police who went there to remove a Yugoslav flag from the church tower fired on a hostile crowd and killed 2 persons. The Slovenes, with Communist-controlled unions, declared a general strike in protest.

*March 11.*—All Trieste shops were shut.

*March 12.*—The strike extended to Monfalcone and Gorizia.

*March 13.*—The Council of Ministers fixed June 2 as the date for the General Election and the referendum to decide on the question of the monarchy. In the local elections the Christian Democrats won control of the largest number of communes, with the Socialist-Communist bloc next.

The Trieste strike was called off after the leaders had attempted without success to persuade the acting head of A.M.G. to disband the police force and set up a "people's committee" to supervise the new recruiting.

*March 15.*—Major Gunder, of the Yugoslav War Booty Commission, was shot and seriously wounded in Trieste by a man reported to belong to the *Chetnik* movement. The Archbishop of Gorizia, in a pastoral



letter, protested against the Yugoslav restrictions on his movements and called upon the governors of Zone B to restore his freedom of action.

*March 18.*—It was learnt that the Prime Minister had received from Prince Umberto a signed decree authorizing the referendum and general election, with a letter stating that he would respect the free decisions of the people.

*March 23.*—The Prime Minister received Mr. Hoover, who later saw the high commissioner for food supplies.

*March 24.*—Demonstrations in Trieste led to clashes between Italians and Yugoslavs and Italian Communists.

**JAPAN.** *March 6.*—The Government published the draft of the new Constitution, of which the outstanding clause was the renunciation of war as "a sovereign right of the nation" and the threat or use of force "for ever", and the prohibition of the maintenance of army, navy, or air forces. It was accompanied by a statement by Gen. MacArthur that he viewed the draft with a sense of deep satisfaction.

The powers of the Emperor were redefined, reducing him to the role of a constitutional monarch, provision was made for the establishment of a "bill of rights", the House of Peers was abolished and replaced by a "House of Councillors", and the judicial system was to be reformed.

At Morotai 13 Japanese were shot for war crimes.

*March 7.*—The Singapore War Crimes Court sentenced 2 Japanese officers to be hanged for the killing of 61 Burmese in the Andaman Islands in July, 1945, and 2 others to terms of imprisonment.

**JAVA.** *March 5.*—Dr. Sjahrir told the press he had received from Dr. Soekarno a 5-point mandate. The first called for the conduct of discussions with the Dutch based on the full recognition of the Republic and the other 4 related to the economic, political, and social structure of the Republic.

*March 9.*—Some 3,000 Dutch troops landed at Batavia, and others landed at Surabaya and Semarang. A British major and two Indian soldiers were killed when a party was ambushed south-east of Medan, Sumatra.

*March 11.*—British casualties in Java were announced as, British Army, 27 killed, 55 wounded, and 8 missing; Indian Army, 236 killed, 810 wounded, 229 missing.

Dr. Sjahrir protested to the Allied Commander against the Dutch "invasion", which meant "the violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia". Unless the Dutch Government had certain hostile intentions it was beyond comprehension for what reason the reinforcements were necessary.

A supply convoy was attacked between Buitenzorg and Bandoeng and 7 Indian soldiers killed. British tanks and aircraft were brought in to deal with the attacks.

*March 12.*—Dr. Sjahrir announced his new Cabinet of 15 members, 11 of whom were the same as before. It was described as a coalition, including Socialists, National Democrats, and the Muslim Association.

*March 14.*—The convoy reached Bandoeng, after 4 days' fighting, in which it lost 12 killed and 78 wounded. The attacks on it were stated at Allied H.Q. to show every sign of being long and carefully planned, and so were not a reprisal for the arrival of Dutch troops. There was clear evidence of the Indonesian Republican Army's having taken part in the actions. Ambulances, clearly marked, were repeatedly attacked.

*March 16.*—At a meeting between the Dutch and Indonesian delegations at the British Ambassador's house agreement was reached on the procedure to be adopted, and sub-committees set up to discuss certain matters in detail. The Indonesian delegation consisted of Dr. Sjahrir, 2 other "Ministers", and the Vice-Minister.

*March 22.*—The arrest was reported in central Java of the Communist leader, Malakka, and 3 supporters. He was the sponsor of the "People's Front", which had recently lost many of its supporters and now had little influence.

**MALAYA.** *March 8.*—The Pan-Malay Congress handed to the British Military Administration a resolution, for submission to the British Prime Minister, stating that the agreements signed by the 8 Sultans were not executed in accordance with the Constitutions, traditions, and customs of their States, and were therefore null and void. As they were executed without the knowledge of the Sultan's subjects they were contrary to democratic principles. Further, the proposals amounted to outright annexation, and the creation of a Malayan Union and Malayan citizenship would end the existence of 9 sovereign States, in violation of the principle of the sanctity of treaties.

The Congress asked the Government to make a full examination of the conditions prevailing, and meanwhile withdraw their proposals.

British Government's assurance regarding the putting into effect of the new Constitution. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 16.*—Lord Killearn arrived in Singapore. Announcement by British Colonial Under-Secretary. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 18.*—Pandit Nehru arrived in Singapore.

**THE NETHERLANDS.** *March 7.*—The Government bought for the dollar equivalent of £A2 million the U.S. naval base of Hollandia, in Dutch New Guinea.

*March 16.*—The Nazi leader Blokzijl, known as "the Dutch Goebbels", was executed, the first man to suffer the death penalty since the liberation.

#### NEW ZEALAND

*March 6.*—The Pacific Aviation Conference ended, after deciding to recommend the establishment of a South Pacific Air Transport Council, with its permanent secretariat in Australia. Canada was invited to accept membership.

**NORWAY.** *March 6.*—Trade Treaty with Switzerland signed. (*see Switzerland.*)

PALESTINE. *March 6.*—Sarafend military camp was raided by 14 armed Jews in British uniform, and some ammunition stolen. Shots were exchanged and a British woman welfare worker was seriously wounded. Three Jews were afterwards arrested, one of them wounded.

The Anglo-American Commission arrived in Jerusalem.

*March 7.*—The Jerusalem Arab Office, in a memorandum submitted to the Commission, suggested the cancellation of the Mandate and the creation of an independent national democratic Palestinian State based on free elections. Its Constitution would recognize no distinctions on grounds of race, religion, or language, and all Jews who were Palestinian citizens, would, provided they abandoned Zionism, exercise full rights of citizenship.

*March 8.*—Dr. Weizmann told the Commission that the Jews could not continue to live in Europe, in view of their terrible sufferings there. There was no substitute for Palestine, and it was useless to offer one. Without a Jewish State it was doubtful if they could survive. He believed that 60 or 70 per cent of those surviving in Europe and also many in Oriental countries—where they were hostages in the hands of Moslem majorities—wished to go to Palestine. Potential immigrants were therefore about a million.

*March 10.*—The Jewish Agency submitted a memorandum to the Commission declaring that the remnants of the Jews must be evacuated to Palestine, and statehood must be attained as quickly as possible. It advocated a self-governing State in which all citizens should enjoy equal rights. Jews would not have more rights than non-Jews, and the State would not be based on the Jewish religion. To realize this the Jewish Agency should have power to conduct immigration and be granted concessions for irrigation, etc.

*March 11.*—Mr. David Ben-Gurion told the Commission that the Jews were in Palestine as of right, and not because of the Balfour Declaration or the Mandate. They would never renounce their spiritual values. They had suffered rather than surrender to Hellenism, or to Rome, or to Christianity, or, finally, to the last terrible years. Those in Palestine were a Jewish commonwealth in the making. They had recreated, and were recreating Palestine from rock and marsh. In the national home the Arabs would preserve their way of life and have the same treatment as Jews. Arabs and Jews needed each other, but only as equals. He declared that hundreds of thousands of Jews were ready to give their lives for Zionism.

*March 12.*—Jemal Husseini, recently released from internment, told the Commission that the Arabs demanded recognition of their complete independence, the abandonment of the attempts to establish a Jewish national home, the abrogation of the Mandate, and the immediate cessation of immigration and the sales of land to Jews. He declared that before the Balfour Declaration the Arabs and Jews had lived together in peace in Palestine; also that the Mandate, in which the Jews had been consulted, but not the Arabs, was a flagrant denial of Arab rights.

*March 13.*—Representatives of the Sephardic Jews told the Com-

mission that the plight of their communities in the Middle East countries was steadily worsening, and it was a matter of life and death to open to them the gates of Palestine.

*March 14.*—The rector of the Hebrew University and head of the Ihud (Union) Association told the Commission that there was but one way of dealing with the Palestine problem — Jewish and Arab co-operation, and Ihud therefore stood for the union of the two races in a bi-national Palestine based on the parity of the two peoples, and for the union of this Palestine with the neighbouring countries. The union should be a regional one under the auspices of U.N.O.

They proposed that an interim compassionate immigration of 100,000 refugees should be allowed now — this would not be a threat to Arab numbers, for the Arabs would still be in a majority of 500,000. The Jews should thereafter have the chance through immigration of becoming after some years one-half of the population.

**PERSIA.** *March 4.*—Tudeh Party demonstrations in Teheran against prolonging the life of Parliament led to 10 people being injured and the session of the *Majlis* being cancelled. (Elections were due on March 12.) Right-wing leaders pointed out that Elections could not by law be held while foreign troops were in the country, and the date March 12 was fixed because it was assumed they would all leave on March 2.

*March 5.*—The Tudeh Party organized demonstrations in Teheran against the prolongation of the life of Parliament, and protested against its composition, because it included many landowners.

*March 6.*—Russian forces were reported to have held up Persian troops moving towards Semnan, Meshed, and Shahrud, and 25 miles west of Teheran a Russian post was still garrisoned. The strength of the Russian forces still in Persia was believed to be 50,000, spread over Azerbaijan and the Caspian coast.

*March 7.*—A Cabinet Minister stated in Teheran that the Russians had not evacuated any place, and their announcement was a lie. More Tudeh disturbances in Teheran led to 3 people being killed when gendarmes dispersed the crowd.

*March 8.*—The Azerbaijan administration was reported to have annexed a coastal strip along the shore of the Caspian.

*March 11.*—Large crowds prevented most of the Deputies from entering the *Majlis* and two Right-wing Members were seriously assaulted. Tudeh supporters demonstrated for the Prime Minister.

*March 12.*—The *Majlis* was dissolved.

*March 13.*—The Premier said there was no confirmation of the reports of Russian troop movements in the north, but then announced that his efforts in Moscow to get a promise of their withdrawal had failed completely. The Russians asked for retention of their troops in Persia, acknowledgement of full autonomy for Azerbaijan, and oil concessions in the north.

American press reports stated that Soviet tanks, etc., were only 20

miles from Teheran, and that combat troops had entered Mianeh, Maraghen, and Miyanduab, near the Turkish and Iraq frontiers. Cavalry were also reported at Astara, on the Caspian.

*March 14.*—Teheran radio announced that the Premier had banned all public demonstrations "owing to the misuse of political freedom".

Russian charges against Persia. (see *U.S.S.R.*)

*March 15.*—The area surrounding Karaj was isolated by the Russians, though the town itself could be visited. Reports from a place 4 miles from it showed that a Soviet military train had been arriving every other night, with tanks, guns, etc., and manned by members of the Democrat movement.

The Minister of War, after seeing the Shah, announced that the Government had decided to appeal to the Security Council. He also said the Persian Army, if need be, would fight to the last man, "helped by every boy and every girl".

*March 16.*—The War Minister stated that he had been mistranslated and had not used the words attributed to him the previous day.

*March 17.*—Reports reached Teheran that the Russians were strengthening their forces in the area west of Teheran. It was stated in the capital that no Persian troops had been sent there, but that a force at Garmsar (75 miles east of Teheran) was stopped by the Russians while on its way to occupy places in Eastern Persia which the latter were expected to evacuate.

The Soviet *Chargé d'Affaires* was believed to have informed the Prime Minister that his Government would regard any submission to the Security Council of the question of the retention of Russian troops in Persia as an "unfriendly act".

*March 18.*—The Ministry of War sent an inspection party to tour Kurdistan.

*March 19.*—The Government, in a Note to the Security Council (published in Washington), stated that Persia brought to its notice "the dispute between Iran and the U.S.S.R., the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security". It had arisen by reason of new developments since the adoption of the resolution of Jan. 30, i.e., the retention of Soviet troops after March 2 and the continuation of interference by officials, agents, and troops in the internal affairs of Iran, in contravention of the Anglo-American-Soviet declaration of Teheran (1943) and the Charter of U.N.O.

The Ambassador in Washington's statement. (see *U.S.A.*)

The *Tudeh* papers accused the Prime Minister of being influenced by reactionaries in not heeding a warning given him in Moscow by M. Molotov, who had complained about "a certain discrimination in Iran against the U.S.S.R. due to the power of reactionary forces", but was sure, he said, that M. Qawam would be able to stifle these forces completely.

Reports reached Teheran of the formation in Kurdistan of a "National Liberation Committee", with which the Azerbaijanis were seeking contact.

*March 20.*—Kurdish tribesmen were reported to be attacking Sardasht, Baneh, and Saqqiz, south of Lake Urmia.

Soviet troops were stated to be between Saqqiz and Bukan, 20 miles further north. Said Zia ed Din, a former Premier, was taken into protective custody. (He had been accused in December by the Tudeh Party of preparing a *coup d'état*.)

*March 22.*—Baneh, Sardasht, and Saqqiz were reported to be surrounded. A Kurdish leader visiting Teheran stated that the whole of the Mohabad area was dissatisfied with its treatment by the Government. They had been unable to nominate local officials, and salaries had not been paid for 3 months. He repudiated the idea that the Kurds had Communist sympathies or leadership.

The Ambassador in Washington wrote to Mr. Trygve Lie asking that the consideration of the Persian appeal should not be delayed. In London a decision was postponed on the merits of the earlier dispute pending negotiations between the parties. These negotiations had failed. The obligation of the Soviet Government to withdraw its forces was not a proper subject for negotiation under the Charter or under the Constitution of Persia.

*March 23.*—The Premier told the press that Soviet troops might begin withdrawing before the Security Council met.

**POLAND.** *March 6.*—The Prime Minister, speaking at a Socialist meeting in Warsaw, praised Russia, attacked the opponents of the Polish Government, and criticized Britain. He said the negotiations between the Socialist, Communist, and Peasant Parties showed that the last-named "wanted something different from what we want, that its political and social programme differs from ours, and that we cannot count on the loyal co-operation of the Peasant Party with the democratic camp." The leaders who returned from London had entered the Government to conduct opposition work, and had had communications with the Government's opponents abroad.

*March 14.*—Marshal Tito arrived in Warsaw on a good-will mission.

*March 17.*—The Minister of Public Security, in a *communiqué*, declared that during a police raid the previous week on the Peasant Party's headquarters leaflets slandering State organs were found, and documents showing the Party was in contact with terrorist bands.

The President of the Republic, by Cabinet decision, reduced the Peasant Party's representation in the Government from 4 to 3 seats.

*March 18.*—A Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance with Yugoslavia was signed in Warsaw, to last for 20 years.

*March 20.*—Dr. Putek was appointed Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. He belonged to the Peasant group which opposed M. Mikołajczyk.

The Press Agency published the text of the Treaty with Yugoslavia. Besides an alliance and mutual assistance it provided for consultation both in the event of the peace and security of either party being threatened, and during important events affecting the interests of both. Reciprocal assistance would be given if one of the parties became



"involved, as a result of aggression, in military operations against Germany or any State which was an ally of Germany during the war or against any other State which entered into a direct alliance with Germany or with one of Germany's former allies".

The Treaty did not in any way interfere with obligations undertaken by both high contracting parties towards a third party. The contracting parties would "support every endeavour which aims at the removal of the sources of aggression and the strengthening of world peace and security".

Mr. Bevin's statement regarding Gen. Anders's troops. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 21.*—Warsaw radio described part of Mr. Bevin's statement in Parliament as "neither accurate nor fitting", and said he was taking it upon himself to protect Poles in Poland.

*March 24.*—It was announced that the Red Army had agreed to hand over the northern part of Stettin port to Poland.

RUMANIA. *March 11.*—The Social-Democratic Party decided to join the Communists in a Government electoral *bloc* for the General Election.

SOUTH AFRICA. *March 12.*—Notice by India of termination of commercial agreement. (*see India.*)

*March 14.*—Gen. Smuts, speaking in the Assembly, said he thought it was impossible to judge the full intention of Mr. Churchill's speech from the summary published there; more had been read into it than was intended. It was wrong to judge the actions of the Russians hastily, and they must not jump to conclusions. He did not expect a "war situation" to develop for many years to come, but the spirit of the peoples was so confused and unstable that circumstances might develop that might be just as destructive as war. The only policy was patience, and the only hope was in making U.N.O. work.

*March 15.*—Gen. Smuts introduced the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill in Parliament. It extended to the whole of Natal the control of dealings in fixed property between Asiatics and non-Asiatics, and the occupation of fixed property by Asiatics. (The Act it superseded only applied to Durban.) The occupation provisions were also extended to the Transvaal. The franchise proposals provided that in the Senate the Indians of Natal and the Transvaal would be jointly represented by 2 Senators, one elected by the Indians and one appointed by the Government. In the Assembly they would have 3 Members.

*March 16.*—The Minister of Finance, speaking at Witwatersrand University, denounced the "*Herrenvolk* mentality" and race and colour prejudices in the Union.

SPAIN. *March 4.*—Tripartite statement on the régime. (*see Great Britain and U.S.A.*) Statement in Parliament by the Minister of State. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 5.*—The press published misleading extracts from the three-Power Note, which it represented as a piece of unwarranted meddling. Note handed to the U.S. Government. (*see U.S.A.*)

*March 6.*—The two women charged with attempting to reorganize the Socialist Party were sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment. The Government ordered all French nationals to leave Spain and Spanish possessions and prohibited Spaniards from entering French territory. It also stopped all trade and suspended private correspondence.

Madrid radio broadcast "irrefutable evidence" that Spain never actively helped the Axis.

*March 7.*—Gen. Franco stated in Madrid that the Government was determined to carry out its programme of social justice, and he accused the Left wing of attacking them because they were doing this.

*March 18.*—The Government issued a pamphlet in reply to the American White Book. It protested against "the unjust and unseemly publication of incomplete evidence" taken from the secret archives of a defeated enemy without previous consultation with the Government concerned, and then pointed out that only Britain, as sole belligerent among the Allies at that time, had the right to ask for an explanation from Spain of her policy in face of German threats. (13 out of the 15 documents cited dated from before Pearl Harbour, when the U.S.A. as well as Spain was neutral.)

*March 23.*—The Government sent a Note to London calling attention to renewed Communist activities on the French frontier.

SWITZERLAND. *March 6.*—A trade treaty with Norway was signed granting Norway a credit of 5 million francs to allow her to import vital goods for reconstruction.

*March 12.*—Monetary agreement with the U.K. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 19.*—The Political Department announced that agreement had been reached with Russia to re-establish diplomatic relations, by an exchange of Notes in Belgrade the previous day.

SYRIA AND THE LEBANON. *March 4.*—Announcement *re* withdrawal of foreign troops. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 10.*—Agreement as to details and time of evacuation of troops. (*see France.*)

*March 22.*—New agreement *re* evacuation of the Lebanon. (*see France.*)

U.S.A. *March 4.*—The Indian food mission arrived in Washington from Canada.

The President described the loan to Britain as the "corner stone of the world's structure of peace" at a ceremony in Washington, and said the alternative to it would be trade warfare throughout the world.

Mr. Byrnes received the Persian Ambassador, who asked that the Government should support the British position by a communication to Moscow similar to that of Britain.

The tripartite statement on Spain was issued in Washington (*see Great Britain*) simultaneously with captured German documents.

These revealed that in June, 1940 Franco promised both Hitler and Mussolini to enter the war on their side, on condition that Spain received Gibraltar, French Morocco, and part of Algeria and that military and economic assistance be given her.

*March 5.*—Mr. Byrnes told the press that a message was being sent to Moscow about the Manchurian situation, adding that the Supreme Allied Command of Gen. MacArthur extended to wherever enemy troops were to be found. As far as he knew, the General had authority to go into Manchuria if he wished.

It was announced that the State Department had received a Note from the Spanish Government on March 3 stating that it wished to inform the U.S. Government in advance that "Spain repudiates any foreign pressure put upon her, since she considers that the question of her internal régime is a matter concerning exclusively her own sovereignty. Any further foreign intervention that might appear as a threat to their independence would serve only to heighten the national feelings of the people, always jealous of the integrity of their sovereignty".

The text was released of the Note sent to Moscow and Chungking on Feb. 9. It stated that in present conditions, when access to Manchuria was not available and equality of opportunity in seeking participation in its economic development was denied to Americans and other allies, "it is felt that the negotiation of agreements between the Chinese and Russian Governments with regard to industries in Manchuria would be contrary to the principle of the open door and constitute a clear discrimination against the Americans . . . and might place American interests at a distinct disadvantage".

It was announced that the Government had sent a Note to Moscow regarding Persia. Mr. Churchill's speech at Fulton. (*see page 187.*)

*March 7.*—The State Department announced that the Note to Moscow declared that the U.S.A. "cannot remain indifferent" to the situation created by the Russian decision to retain troops in Persia. The Government expressed "the earnest hope that the Soviet Government will do its part by withdrawing immediately all Soviet forces from the territory of Iran to promote the international confidence which is necessary for peaceful progress among the peoples of all nations". It referred to the heavy responsibility resting upon the great Powers to observe their obligations and respect the sovereign rights of other States and asked that the U.S.A. be "promptly advised" of a Russian decision which, it hoped, would be in accord with the U.S. views.

It recalled statements by the Soviet Government that the period of stationing troops in Persia was governed by the Treaty of Jan. 19, 1942, the terms of which it cited, and went on to say that there was no questioning of this commitment at the meeting of the Security Council. Quoting the declaration of Dec. 1, 1943, stating that the Big Three were "at one with the Government of Iran in their desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Iran", it stated that in the U.S. Government's opinion the maintenance of troops in Iranian territory by any one of the three signatories of that declaration without the consent of and against the wishes of the Government of Iran

was "contrary to the assurances contained in that declaration". It also recalled that the Security Council had generally accepted that the withdrawal of troops stationed in the territory of another country without its consent should not be contingent upon other issues.

*March 8.*—It was stated in Washington that the Government did not consider that the question of the Franco régime constituted a threat to world peace and would therefore not accept the French proposal to submit it to U.N.O.

Mr. Byrnes told the press that he had just received a reply from Moscow to his Note of Feb. 9 about Manchuria.

President Truman told the press that he did not know in advance what Mr. Churchill's speech would contain. Asked whether, if the Soviet Union refused to withdraw from Persia U.N.O. would collapse, he said the U.S.A. would not let it collapse. He also said that the question of Kars and Ardahan had not been discussed at Potsdam.

Mr. Churchill, addressing the Virginia State Legislature, said that "in these last years of my life there is a message of which I conceive myself to be the bearer. It is a very simple message, which can be well understood by the people of our countries. It is that we should stand together, in malice towards none, in greed for nothing, but in defence of those causes which we hold dear, not only for our own benefit, but because we believe that they mean honour and happiness for long generations of men".

Moscow statement *re* U.S. Note to Bulgaria. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

*March 9.*—Soviet publication of U.S. memorandum to Bulgarian representative in Washington. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

*March 11.*—The famine emergency committee appealed to the nation to cut the consumption of wheat by 40 per cent and fats by 20 per cent.

The State Department issued a statement that "the United States feels strongly that a change of régime in Spain is long overdue". The Government did not feel, however, that it could associate itself with the French Government in now bringing the Spanish question to the attention of the Security Council. The statement was contained in a Note delivered in Paris on March 9 (in reply to the French Note of Feb. 27 seeking U.S. support.) This said that the Government was prepared to study any additional information the French Government might like to furnish, and would appreciate particularly being informed more precisely as to how it believed the matter came within the jurisdiction of the Security Council, the type of action which it considered the Council would be in a position to take, and specific recommendations for action which France might envisage making to the Council.

Mr. Churchill, replying to press questions in Washington, said he was not surprised or alarmed by the criticisms of his speech, and the press reported that he remained deeply convinced that the massive movement of events would justify his plea for "fraternal association" of America and the British Commonwealth.

The text was issued of the Note to Moscow in reply to the Soviet protest regarding Bulgaria. It stated that the Government had at no time taken any action interpretable as inconsistent with "the friendly

spirit of co-operation which motivated" the Moscow agreement of the Big Three. The United States had not acted unilaterally.

*March 12.*—Mr. Hoover told the press that about 5 million tons of wheat might be saved if South American countries reduced their imports from the U.S.A. and used their existing surpluses for export. This would be in addition to the 2 million tons the U.S.A. could save by conservation measures.

Mr. Lehman resigned the director-generalship of U.N.R.R.A. owing to ill-health.

The House of Representatives decided that the atom bomb tests in the Pacific should be made under "strict military secrecy".

The State Department announced the receipt of reports that Russian forces and "heavy military combat equipment" had been moving south in Persia during the past week through Tabriz towards Teheran and also towards the western frontier. The Soviet Government had already been asked whether the reports were true and, if so, why the movements were taking place.

*March 13.*—The War Department announced that the evacuation of the Africa-Middle East theatre would take place as soon as surplus equipment there, valued at \$100 million, had been disposed of.

The strikes in the motor and the electrical industries were settled, by wage increases.

*March 14.*—The President told the press that he did not believe that the international situation was "fraught with danger". He thought the world would "work out of it".

*March 15.*—M. Blum arrived in Washington.

Mr. Churchill's speech in New York. (*see page 191.*)

Mr. Byrnes told the press it was not in the broad interests of the United States to discuss the Persian situation "at this time", and he would not speculate on the numbers, position, etc., of the Soviet forces.

The State Department received a reply from the Soviet Government to a Note it had sent to Moscow regarding the possible grant of a loan.

Gen. Marshall arrived in Washington.

*March 16.*—Mr. Byrnes, speaking in New York, said the U.S.A. would use armed forces, should the occasion arise, in support of the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. "We do not propose to seek security in an alliance with the Soviet Union against Britain or in an alliance with Britain against the Soviet Union. We propose to stand with the United Nations in our efforts to secure equal justice for all nations and special privileges for no nation." They must have patience as well as firmness; they must keep their feet on the ground.

Expressing concern at the rapid demobilization of the forces, he said that while other nations remained armed the U.S.A., in the interests of world peace, could not disarm. Between the wars their weakness incited the three aggressive Powers to ever bolder aggressions, and tragic experience made them realize that weakness invited aggression.

Gen. Marshall stated in Washington that the situation in Manchuria was "extremely critical", with 39 divisions of American-trained and armed Chinese Government troops preparing to move into the

country and the Communist troops there knowing nothing of the arrangements made for handing over to them — the great mass of them had never received any instructions. Before he left he had arranged for "teams", each composed of an American, Nationalist, and Communist member, to be sent into Manchuria to disseminate information and prevent clashes.

*March 17.*—It was understood that the Persian Government had been informed that even if they did not appeal to the Security Council the issue would be opened on U.S. initiative.

Mr. Trygve Lie arrived in Washington, and Sir Alexander Cadogan arrived in New York.

President Truman informed the President of Poland that no grain-importing country "can hope to receive in the immediate future more than a portion of its needs".

It was announced at the White House that Mr. Bernard Baruch would be the American member of the commission of 12 men to make up the United Nations Commission on Atomic Energy.

The Combined Food Board, at its meeting in Washington of its commodity committee, failed to reach agreement on a plan for distributing wheat to the countries threatened with famine owing, very largely, to the refusal of Argentina to reduce her shipments to Spain, Portugal, and other countries not seriously short of food.

*March 19.*—The Secretary of Commerce, speaking in New York, declared that the United States had nothing to gain, but everything to lose "by beating the tom-toms against Russia" and appealed for "a special effort to talk things over with the Soviet leaders and to come to a friendly understanding". "We need", he said, "a better understanding of the reasons for recent actions of the Soviet Government which have been so disturbing to many people in this country and elsewhere, and which feed the current talk of war. . . . The Soviets may not fully realize the psychological effects of some of their actions, because their minds are dominated by fear of insecurity. On the other hand, some Americans are driven by fear of Communistic penetration and of world Communistic revolution."

If they had free discussion he thought he could make it clear to Russia that she could not ride roughshod over Eastern Europe and get away with it any more than America could in Latin America, or England in India and Africa. On the other hand, "we must make it clear to the Soviets that we have no intention of creating *blocs* or special axes inside or outside the U.N.O."

The Persian appeal to the Security Council was published by the Secretary-General (*see Persia*). The Persian Ambassador, in a statement in Washington said: 'I desire on behalf of my Government to emphasize that the bringing by one party before the Security Council of a dispute of this kind should not be interpreted by the other party as an act of unfriendliness. My Government feels compelled to take this course because of its responsibilities to its people and because of the obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution. . . .'

Mr. Byrnes told the press that the timing of the Greek Elections



was "of course a matter for the Greek Government alone to decide". The U.S. mission of observation had completed its preparations. He also said he had just signed a reply to the French Note about Spain.

*March 20.*—President Truman sent a message to India saying America would do all she could to provide food, and possibly more than had been promised. (The question was under discussion by the Combined Food Board.)

A spokesman of the joint Army and Navy force which was to carry out the atom bomb tests at Bikini denied a charge made by Moscow radio that the U.S.A. was "brandishing" the bomb for its own imperialist purposes.

*March 21.*—Mr. Stettinius, in a letter to Mr. Trygve Lie regarding Iran and the Security Council, said that when the Council met he would move: "Firstly, that consideration of the letters filed by Iran be placed at the head of the agenda; secondly, in connection with the consideration of these letters, that Iran and the U.S.S.R. be requested to report on negotiations which may have taken place between them in accordance with the resolution of the Council adopted on Jan. 30."

Mr. Churchill left for England. President Truman told the press that the Security Council meeting would not be postponed.

*March 24.*—The President nominated Mr. Averell Harriman as Ambassador to Britain, and Mr. Winant as permanent delegate to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Gen. Bedell Smith left for Moscow to assume office as Ambassador there.

U.S.S.R. *March 4.*—The Government was asked by the British Chargé d'Affaires to throw some light on its announcement regarding its forces in Persia. It also received a letter from the Persian Premier protesting against the decision to retain them there.

Moscow radio, in a broadcast in English to North America, said that though Mr. Mackenzie King was the leader of the Liberal Party in Canada, he had never displayed any particular liberalism. His Government had earned distinction by persecuting labour organizations and had even made a special ruling to outlaw the Communist Party.

Canadian report on results of the inquiry into the leakage of secret information. (*see Canada.*)

*March 5.*—The Moscow papers, quoting an article by a Persian described as former chief of the Persian war information bureau in the U.S.A., stated that Britain was trying to create a second Java in Persia. For the last 2 years she had been arming tribes in Southern Persia so as to prepare a coup at the least sign that the Tudeh Party and its allied parties might gain a victory in the elections which were to take place after the evacuation of Allied troops.

Note to China regarding industries in Manchuria. (*see China.*) Notes from the U.S.A. *re* Persia and Manchuria. (*see U.S.A.*)

The Persian Premier authorized a statement that there was no question of an agreement being reached in Moscow, since the meetings there were intended merely to exchange views. Moscow radio again accused Britain of arming the tribes of Southern Persia.

*March 7.*—Moscow radio, in its first comment on Mr. Churchill's speech, said it "was devoted to international problems; it was delivered in an extremely aggressive tone". He demanded in particular the establishment of an Anglo-United States military alliance opposed to the Soviet Union.

Publication of Note from U.S. Government *re Persia*. (see U.S.A.) The Persian Premier left Moscow, and it was officially announced that the conversations took place in a friendly atmosphere, and "both Governments will make every effort, with the appointment of a new Soviet Ambassador, to create favourable conditions for a further strengthening of friendly relations between them". Mr. Qawam told the press that he had made every effort to reach an understanding.

*March 8.*—Moscow radio broadcast a statement by the Foreign Commissariat about the U.S. Note of Feb. 27 saying that on Feb. 22 the Bulgarian representative in Washington had been informed of the U.S. position as to the execution of the Moscow Conference decision regarding Bulgaria. The Soviet reply stated that the decision taken was that the two Opposition Ministers to enter the Bulgarian Government would belong to parties not now taking part in it, and would loyally work together with the Government. No other decisions about Bulgaria were taken. The Soviet Government considered it imperative to point out: The U.S. declaration did not correspond with the Moscow decisions, and it was an infringement of those decisions as new conditions had now been put forward with regard to the participation of Opposition Ministers in the Government. The Soviet had already drawn the attention of the U.S. Government to the fact that its representative in Sofia was "systematically inciting the Bulgarian opposition to act against the decisions of the three Ministers and to put forward new conditions for entering the Government". The U.S. declaration, too, could only incite the Opposition to act contrary to the decision of the three Ministers.

*March 9.*—The Foreign Commissariat published the memorandum received by the representative in Washington from the U.S. Government about Bulgaria. It said that it was never the understanding of the U.S.A. that pressure was to be exerted on the Bulgarian Opposition to nominate two candidates for *pro forma* inclusion in the Cabinet without regard to the conditions of their participation. Though the Moscow agreement did not lay down specific conditions, in the view of the U.S. Government it did anticipate that the participation of these representatives would be on the basis of conditions mutually agreeable both to the Bulgarian Government and the Opposition.

The censorship of foreign correspondents' messages was tightened, and pressmen were no longer allowed to see their censored messages.

*March 11.*—A *Pravda* article dealing with Mr. Churchill's speech was broadcast in full from Moscow. It accused him of "trying to impress the idea" that a new war was inevitable and even of "inciting people to this war". After the 1914-18 war he was the inciter of the anti-Soviet campaign, and had now become his old self again, after a period—while mortal danger threatened Britain and Europe—during which he pre-

tended to be a friend of the Soviet people. The danger had now passed, and Churchill could give vent to his true sentiments which he hid through all the years of war, "painstakingly concealing his hostile intentions and plans towards the Soviet Union".

A military alliance of two of the members of the coalition against the third meant the end of the coalition of the three great Powers. Churchill openly proclaimed the policy of force; his object was Anglo-American domination throughout the world.

*March 12.*—The Soviet of the Union, legislative body of the newly elected Supreme Soviet, met at the Kremlin, and elected Gen. Zhdanov chairman of the session, which was to adopt the 4th Five-Year Plan, and elect a new Cabinet. The Soviet of the Nationalities also met.

*Izvestia*, in a long article, appealed to American public opinion to hold fast to "the old tradition of Russian-American friendship", contrasting this with British action. It saw a connection between the British Government and Mr. Churchill's aims, saying "under Bevin the point of departure remains the same; the instigation of suspicion against the Soviet Union, the sowing of alarms in connection with imagined aggressions by the Soviet, the organization of hostile blocs, the encouragement of hostile neighbours on our southern front, where an impasse is indeed being created, and a foul impasse at that".

The Soviet Union was not after world supremacy, but it would not tolerate a repetition of 1941, and would not tolerate even the most moderate preparations for an attack upon its frontiers.

*March 13.*—Moscow radio broadcast an interview given by Marshal Stalin to *Pravda*, in which he said he appraised Churchill's speech as "a dangerous act, calculated to sow seeds of dissent among the Allied nations and hinder their collaboration". He had now adopted the position of warmonger, and "it must be noted that Mr. Churchill and his friends bear a striking resemblance to Hitler and his friends". He and his friends in Britain and the U.S.A. were in fact issuing to all non-English speaking nations something in the nature of an ultimatum saying "Recognize willingly our domination, and everything will be all right". If you choose this, Stalin said, it inevitably means war. It was true Churchill had said that the treaty with Russia could be prolonged to 50 years, but how was one to reconcile this with the course he had laid—aimed at war with the Soviet Union—with his preachings of war on the U.S.S.R.? It meant that he regarded the treaty as an empty scrap of paper, and it was therefore impossible to treat seriously the false declarations of his friends in Britain regarding the treaty.

Churchill's attack on the régimes in the countries adjacent to Russia was "just slander mingled with rudeness and lack of tact". It was absurd to speak of the exclusive Soviet control in Vienna and Berlin, where there were four-power Allied control commissions, and secondly, sight must not be lost of the fact that the Germans invaded the U.S.S.R. through Finland, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, and were able to do so because Governments hostile to the Soviet existed in those countries.

The Soviet Union lost about 7 million people in the war, including

the deportations, or more by several times than the combined losses of Britain and the U.S.A. Was it surprising that in her desire to safeguard her future, Russia was trying to secure in neighbour countries Governments loyal to the Soviet Union? It was a rude and offensive calumny to say that the Soviet-dominated Polish Government had been urged to make enormous and unjust claims on Germany. What grounds had Mr. Churchill for asserting that the persons now at the helm in Poland could admit in their country the rule of a representative of any foreign State? As regards his attack on the Soviet in connection with the extension of Poland's western frontiers at the expense of the territories captured by the Germans in the previous war, "it seems to me", Stalin said, "that on this point Churchill is quite obviously cheating as in a game of cards". Poland's western frontier boundaries were decided on at the Berlin Conference, and unanimously. As for the charge that police government prevailed in these Eastern European States, with Communists establishing totalitarian control, in England one party now ruled the Government, and the Opposition parties were deprived of the right of taking part. But in Poland, Rumania, etc., government was by a block of several parties, and the opposition, if it was more or less loyal, was assured the right of taking part in the Government.

*March 14.*—A Tass Agency broadcast stated that "a report by the U.S. State Department has been published in the American press that in Persia movements of Soviet military units are taking place through Tabriz to Teheran and towards the western frontier. Tass is authorized to state that the report does not correspond with the facts".

*Izvestia*, in an article on Persia, said that in 1919 she tried to "grab Soviet territory", making a request to the Peace Conference for about half of the Caucasus and all Azerbaijan. Some of the inspirers of these plans were still carrying much influence in Persian policy, e.g., M. Hakimi, the ex-Premier. They knew they could not achieve such ambitions with their own forces, and were therefore trying to make the Soviet Union clash with some other great Power. This situation called for great vigilance on the part of the Soviet.

The 1921 agreement was the foundation of Soviet Persian relations, and under it Russia handed over much property, including roads and railways, so assisting in the liberation of Persia from foreign tutelage. At the beginning of 1941 Persian "ruling circles" had flirted with Germany and planned to seize Soviet Azerbaijan and the Baku oil region.

Mr. Bevin's statement in Parliament. (*see Great Britain.*)

*March 15.*—The chairman of the State Planning Commission told a joint session of both Houses of the Supreme Soviet that the new 5-Year Plan provided for the equipment of the armed forces with the most modern weapons, because "monopolistic capitalism is breeding new aggression".

Marshal Stalin tendered the resignation of his Government.

He was asked by the Supreme Soviet to make recommendations regarding the composition of a new Government, which was in future to be called the Council of Ministers, instead of Soviet of People's Commissars, as hitherto.

*March 19.*—M. Shvernik was elected President of the Union by a joint session of both Chambers of the Supreme Soviet, after President Kalinin had resigned owing to failing eyesight. Moscow radio announced that Marshal Stalin had been reappointed President of the Soviet Council of Ministers, and M. Molotov vice-chairman, as well as Foreign Minister. Other Members were: Deputy chairmen, M. Beria and M. Andreyev; and Foreign Trade Minister, M. Mikoyan (as before).

Marshal Stalin retained the secretaryship of the central committee of the Communist Party, and the committee appointed M. Beria and M. Malenkov as additional members of the Politbureau.

A commission was elected, with M. Vyshinsky as president, to amend and complete the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

Re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Switzerland. (*see Switzerland.*)

A letter was transmitted to the Secretary-General of U.N.O. in New York asking him to take steps to postpone the meeting of the Security Council till April 10, on the ground that "the question which was raised by the Iranian Government before the Security Council is unexpected for the Soviet Government, since negotiations between the Iranian Government and the Government of the U.S.S.R. are being conducted at the present time. In view of the above the Soviet Government is not prepared now to take part in the discussion of the question . . . To secure the necessary preparation . . . naturally some time is required. . . ."

*March 20.*—*Izvestia*, in further attacks on Persia, declared that among ruling circles were influential groups hostile to Russia, and the continuation of their policy could only aggravate the situation inside the country.

*March 22.*—Moscow radio quoted Marshal Stalin as saying to a U.S. press representative that he attached great importance to the U.N. Organization, the strength of which consisted in the fact that it was based on the principle of equality among States, and not on that of domination of some by others. He was convinced that neither the nations nor their armies desired a new war, and the present fear of it was not caused from that quarter. "I think", he said, "it is caused by the actions of some political groups engaged in propaganda, who are sowing seeds of dissension and uncertainty." To preserve peace and tranquillity it was imperative that the public and the ruling circles of the States should organize a wide counter-propaganda against the propagandists of a new war and in the interests of security, and that no utterance of the propagandists of a new war should be left without adequate rebuff both by the public and the press, so that the war-mongers might be exposed in good time and given no opportunity of abusing freedom of speech against the interests of peace.

The British Chargé d'Affaires called again at the Foreign Ministry to ask for a reply to his Note of March 5 regarding Persia.

*March 24.*—Moscow radio announced that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the areas of Meshed, Shekruda (Shahrud) and Semnan, which began on March 2, had already been completed, and "According

to the agreement made with the Persian Government the evacuation of the remaining Soviet troops began to-day. The Soviet Command in Persia reckons that the total evacuation of troops from Persia can be completed in 5 to 6 weeks, if nothing unforeseen occurs".

The radio also stated that the withdrawal of troops from Manchuria would have been completed by the end of April. The Chinese Government had been informed, and had also been reminded that the evacuation would have been completed by the end of December if Chungking had not twice requested its postponement.

VATICAN CITY. *March 16.*—The Pope, speaking to parish priests and preachers in Rome on certain provisions in the electoral law (forbidding political propaganda by priests) said it was the essential duty and right of the Church to instruct the faithful on everything concerning faith and behaviour, and it had to explain the moral duties arising from the right to vote.

YUGOSLAVIA. *March 18.*—Signature of Treaty with Poland. (*see Poland.*)

*March 23.*—Marshal Tito's statement in Prague. (*see Czechoslovakia.*)

*March 24.*—Belgrade radio reported that the Minister of the Interior had announced that Gen. Mihailovitch had "come into Yugoslav hands" on March 13.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

*March 11.*—Mr. Vinson, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, was unanimously elected chairman of the board both of the Bank and the Monetary Fund by the international monetary conference in Savannah. An executive committee was set up, composed of an American chairman, a British vice-chairman, and representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Poland.

*March 18.*—At the International Monetary Conference at Savannah Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Greece, Chile, and Cuba were elected to places on the executive board of the International Bank, and Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, and Czechoslovakia to places on the board of the Fund.

Mr. Lehman reported to the annual council meeting of U.N.R.R.A. that by the end of March they would have sent out over 7 million tons of supplies, and that the scale of operations was increasing daily. Since September about 725,000 D.Ps had been repatriated with the help of the military authorities.

*March 20.*—At the U.N.R.R.A. conference at Atlantic City Mr. Clayton, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, said he hoped Russia would grant their request to contribute wheat. Referring to Russia's promise to supply 500,000 tons of grain for France, he said this necessitated a



readjustment of France's schedule from existing sources, in justice to countries with equally urgent needs but without access to the new source.

Mr. Trygve Lie received a letter from the Soviet Ambassador in Washington asking for a postponement of the meeting of the Security Council. (*see U.S.S.R.*) He also received a letter from Mr. Stettinius. (*see U.S.A.*) The Secretariat announced that both letters had been sent by the Secretary-General to the representatives of the members of the Security Council and to the Iranian Ambassador.

*March 21.*—The U.N.R.R.A. conference nominated Mr. La Guardia Director-General, in succession to Mr. Lehman. The French Under-Secretary of State told the Council of U.N.R.R.A. that the French purchase of grain offered by Russia would help to relieve the scarcity elsewhere. The Combined Food Board had been told that its allocation of 2,800,000 tons to France for the first half of 1946 could be reduced by 500,000 tons.

Indian delegates told the Council that 5 to 15 million people in India were in danger of starving to death in the next few months.

Mr. Trygve Lie received a second letter from the Persian Ambassador.

*March 22.*—The U.N.R.R.A. conference admitted Turkey as a member, but refused it to Albania by 23 votes to 6. It decided to enlarge the central committee by adding Australia, Brazil, and Yugoslavia, making 9 in all.

## MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECHES IN THE U.S.A.

ON March 5, at Fulton, Missouri, Mr. Churchill made a speech in which he surveyed the state of the world and gave what he described as his "true and faithful counsel in these anxious and baffling times". He began by making it clear that he had no official status of any kind, and spoke only for himself. His principal points were:

The United States stood at the pinnacle of world power, and with primacy in power was joined an awe-inspiring accountability to the future. Opportunity was "here now, clear and shining for both our countries". It was necessary that "constancy of mind, persistency of purpose, and the grand simplicity of decision shall guide and rule the conduct of the English-speaking peoples in peace as they did in war".

What was the "overall strategic concept" they should now inscribe at the head of their directive? It was the safety and welfare, the freedom and progress of all the homes and families of all the men and women in all the lands. They must be sheltered from the two giant marauders, war and tyranny. He shuddered to think what was happening that very moment to millions of ordinary people, and what was going to happen when famine stalked the earth. Their supreme task and duty was to guard the homes of the common people from the horrors of another war.

As to the method for doing this, a world organization had already been

erected and was at work. They must make sure that it was a reality and a force for action, and "not merely a frothing of words", as before they cast away the solid assurances of national armaments for self-preservation they must be certain that their temple was built upon the rock. The United Nations must immediately begin to be equipped with an international force, and he proposed that each State should be invited to dedicate a certain number of air squadrons to the service of the Organization, to be trained and prepared in their own countries, but to move around in rotation from one country to another. They would wear the uniform of their own countries, with different badges. They would be directed by the world organization, except that they would not have to act against their own nation. This might be started on a modest scale, and grow as confidence grew.

It would, nevertheless, be wrong and imprudent to entrust the secret knowledge or experience of the atomic bomb to the world organization while it was still in its infancy. No one in any country had slept less well in their beds because this knowledge and the method and the raw materials to apply it were at present largely retained in American hands, but he did not believe that would have been the case "if some Communist or Neo-Fascist State monopolized for the time being these dread agencies. The fear of them alone might easily have been used to enforce totalitarian systems upon the free democratic world. . . ."

The second danger was fear of tyranny. The liberties enjoyed by individuals throughout the British Empire were not valid in a considerable number of countries, some of them very powerful. In these, he said, "control is forced upon the common people by various kinds of all-embracing police governments to a degree which is overwhelming and contrary to every principle of democracy. The power of the State is exercised without restraint either by dictators or by compact oligarchies operating through a privileged party and a political policy".

It was not their duty to interfere forcibly in the internal affairs of countries they had not conquered in war, but they "must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world, and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus, Trial by Jury, and the English Common Law find their most famous expression in the Declaration of Independence".

This meant that the people of any country had the right, and should have the power by constitutional action, by free and unfettered elections, with secret ballot, to choose or change the character or form of their government, that freedom of speech and thought should reign, and that independent courts of justice should administer laws assented to by large majorities or consecrated by time and custom. "Here is the message of the British and American peoples to mankind", he said. "Let us preach what we practise, and practise what we preach."

If the dangers of war and tyranny were removed there was no doubt that science and co-operation could bring, in the next few years, an expansion of material well-being beyond anything yet in human experience. But neither the sure prevention of war nor the continuous

rise of world organization would be gained without the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples. This meant a special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States. "This is no time for generalities", he said. Fraternal association meant not only growing friendship and understanding, but the continuance of the intimate relationship between their military advisers, leading to common study of potential dangers, similarity of weapons and manuals of instruction, and interchange of officers and cadets at colleges. Also the joint use of bases all over the world. This would perhaps double the mobility of the U.S. Navy and Air Force, and would greatly expand that of the British Empire's forces. America already had a permanent defence agreement with Canada, and this was more effective than many of those which had often been made under formal alliances. This principle should be extended to all the British Commonwealths. Eventually there might come the principle of common citizenship, but that they might leave to destiny, "whose outstretched arms so many of us can clearly see". This special relationship would not be inconsistent with their overriding loyalties to the world organization; on the contrary, it was probably the only means by which that organization would achieve its full stature and strength.

After saying that he agreed with Mr. Bevin that their alliance with Russia might well be a 50 years' treaty, since "we aim at nothing but collaboration and mutual assistance with Russia", he said that special associations between members of the United Nations which had no aggressive point against any other country, and harboured no design incompatible with the Charter, were beneficial and, he believed, indispensable.

If the peoples of the world did not succeed in building the temple of peace they might have to go and try to learn again for a third time in a school of war far more rigorous than the one from which they had just been released. The dark ages might return, the stone age might return on the gleaming wings of science, and what might now shower immeasurable blessings on mankind might even bring about its total destruction—"Beware, I say. Time may be short." Nobody knew what Russia and its Communist international organization intended to do in the immediate future, or what were the limits, if any, to their expansive and proselytizing tendencies. He had a strong admiration for the Russian people and for Marshal Stalin, and there was sympathy and goodwill in Britain towards the peoples of all the Russias. They understood the Russian need to be secure from all renewal of German aggression. They welcomed constant, frequent, and growing contacts between the Russian people and the British and American peoples. It was his duty, however, to tell his listeners that from Stettin to Trieste an iron curtain had descended across the Continent, and behind it lay all the capitals of the States of Central and Eastern Europe. All that area lay in the Soviet sphere, and all the cities and the peoples round them were subject to one form or another not only of Soviet influence but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow.

The Polish Government had been encouraged to make enormous

and wrongful inroads on Germany, and mass expulsions of millions of Germans on a scale grievous and undreamed of were taking place. The Communist parties, which were very small in all these Eastern States, had been raised to pre-eminence and power far beyond their numbers and were seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control. Police Governments were prevailing in nearly every case, and, so far, save in Czechoslovakia, there was no true democracy. Turkey and Persia were profoundly alarmed at the claims being made on them and the pressure exerted by Moscow. In Berlin the Russians were trying to build up a quasi-Communist Party in their zone of Germany by showing special favours to groups of Left-wing German leaders.

If now, by separate action, the Soviet Government tried to build up a pro-Communist Germany this would cause new serious difficulties in the other zones and give the Germans the power of putting themselves up to auction between the Soviets and the Western democracies. This was certainly not the liberated Europe the Allies fought to build up, nor was it one that contained the essentials of permanent peace.

In Italy the Communist Party was seriously hampered by having to support Marshal Tito's claims to former Italian territory; nevertheless the future of Italy hung in the balance. In a great number of countries far from the Russian frontiers and throughout the world Communist fifth columns were established and worked in complete unity and absolute obedience to the directions they got from Moscow. They constituted a growing challenge and peril to Christian civilization. These were sombre facts which it would be most unwise not to face squarely while time remained.

As to the Far East, especially Manchuria, the Yalta Agreement was extremely favourable to Russia, but was made at a time when no one could say if the German war might not last through the summer and autumn of 1945 and when the Japanese war was expected to last for 18 months after the other war ended.

Though he had not the same confidence or the hopes that he had in 1918, "I repulse", he said, "the idea that a new war is inevitable; still more that it is imminent. . . . I do not believe that Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines. But what we have to consider here to-day, while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries". The dangers would not be removed by waiting to see what happened, nor would they be relieved by a policy of appeasement. He was convinced there was nothing the Russians admired so much as strength, and for that reason the old doctrine of a balance of power was unsound. "We cannot afford", he declared, "to work on narrow margins offering temptations to a trial of strength. If the Western democracies stand together in strict adherence to the principles of the U.N. Charter their influence for furthering those principles will be immense, and no one is likely to molest them". They must reach now, in 1946, a good understanding with Russia under the general authority of the U.N.O. and must maintain that understanding through many

peaceful years by the world instrument, supported by the whole strength of the English-speaking world and all its connections. If the population of the English-speaking Commonwealth were added to that of the United States, with all that such co-operation implied, there would be "no quivering, precarious balance of power to offer its temptations to ambition or adventure. On the contrary, there will be an overwhelming assurance of security".

### MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH IN NEW YORK

ON March 15 Mr. Churchill, speaking at a dinner in New York, said he was sure the hope he expressed at Fulton for increasing the association of their two countries would come to pass because of the tides that flowed in human affairs, and in the course of unfolding the destiny of the world. He thought the only question open was whether the necessary harmony of thought and action between the American and British peoples would be reached in a sufficiently plain and clear manner and in good time to prevent a new world struggle, or whether it would come about only in the course of that struggle. "I do not believe war is inevitable or imminent", he said; "I do not believe the rulers of Russia wish for war at the present time." He was sure, however, the "progress and freedom of all the peoples of the world under the reign of law enforced by a world organization will not come to pass, nor will the age of plenty begin without the persistent, faithful, and above all, fearless exertions of the British and American systems of society".

In the past 10 days the situation had greatly changed as a result of decisions which must have been taken some time ago. Instead of calm discussion of broad and long term tendencies, they now found themselves in the presence of swiftly moving events which no one could measure at the moment. If his words had commanded attention it was only because they found an echo in the breasts of all those, everywhere, who loved freedom and were the foes of tyranny, and he went on. "I certainly will not allow anything said by others to weaken my regard and admiration for the Russian people or my earnest desire that Russia should be safe and prosperous and should take an honoured place in the van of the world organization. Whether they will do so or not depends only on the decisions taken by the handful of able men who, under their renowned chief, hold all the 180 million of Russians and many more millions outside Russia in their grip". There was a deep sympathy throughout the English-speaking world for the people of Russia and an absolute readiness to work with them on fair and even terms to repair the ruin of war in every country, and "if the Soviet Government do not take advantage of this sentiment — if, on the contrary, they discourage it — the responsibility will be entirely theirs". There was one very good way in which they could brush aside any speech they disliked, a way that was open to them *now*, when the Security Council dealt with the Persian appeal. Let the matter be

threshed out there; and let respect be shown even by the greatest or most deeply interested Powers towards the Council's conclusions.

He then cited some of Russia's gains from the war. She had recovered, almost without striking a blow, all she lost to Japan 40 years ago; she had reincorporated the Baltic States and part of Finland; and the Curzon Line was no longer questioned. As to the Dardanelles, he had always told the Soviet Government that Britain would support a revision of the Montreux Convention. At Potsdam the Americans and British offered Russia a joint guarantee of the complete freedom of the Straits in peace and war, for warships as well as merchantmen. To this, Turkey would gladly have subscribed. "But we were told this was not enough," he went on. "Russia must have a fortress inside the Straits from which she could dominate Constantinople. But this is not to keep the Straits open, but to give the power of closing them to a single nation." If she persisted in putting pressure on Turkey the matter must in the first instance be pronounced upon by the Security Council, and thus early would come a very great test for the World Organization.

He referred to the difference between the British and American and the Russian systems of Government elections, and went on to say that the misunderstandings regarding the democratic character of the British system would be swept away if they got through the present difficult period safely and if the British, American, and Russian people were allowed to mingle freely and see how things were done in their respective countries.

As for the relations between Britain and the U.S.A., unless they worked together in full loyalty to the Charter the U.N.O. would cease to have any reality, and the world would be left to the clash of nationalisms which had led to two frightful wars. He went on: "I have never asked for an Anglo-American military alliance or a treaty. I asked for something different, and, in a sense, I asked for something more: I asked for fraternal association — a free, voluntary, fraternal association. I have no doubt that it will come to pass as surely as the sun will rise to-morrow, but you do not need a treaty to express natural affinities and friendships which arise in a fraternal association."

Nothing, he declared, could prevent their two nations drawing ever closer, and nothing could obscure the fact that in their harmonious companionship lay the main hope of a world instrument for maintaining peace. America stood at the highest point of majesty and power ever attained by any community since the Roman Empire. This imposed upon her people a duty which could not be rejected, and "We in the British Commonwealth," he concluded, "will stand at your side in a powerful and faithful friendship and in accordance with the World Charter, and together, I am sure, we shall succeed in lifting from the face of man the curse of war and the darker curse of tyranny. . . ."